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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

memorandum

DATE: April 2, 1986

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: Wildlife Management Biologist, Memphis, TN

SUBJECT: 1985 Deer Harvest Data Summary

TO: Refuge Manager, Holla Bend NWR

The subject data have been summarized on the attached tables. Some data entries were left blank in table 1 because I did not have the information. If you would enter these data on the form and return a copy to me, I will complete the table.

Table 2 shows the age ratio by sex of the 77 deer harvested and compares the percentages with the 100 taken in 1984. The 1985 harvest shows an increase of over 15 percent in the number of 3½ and older age classes from the 1984 harvest. There was also an approximate 16 percent decrease in the ½ age class from 1984. The 1982 Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study report suggested that the Holla Bend herd was near the upper limit of carrying capacity and nearing a level where there is potential for problems. Their report, plus the increase in the number of deer in older age classes, fewer deer in the one-half age class and the reduced 1985 harvest (-23%) causes me some concern.

The average live weights in Table 3 look acceptable although they did decline. Average points were also down. I don't know how these changes vary from historical data since I only have data from 1984. I would suggest that you look at historical age, weight and point data to see how it varies from 1985.

I think it would be advisable to ask Dr. Nelson of Arkansas Tech to make APC's from deer collected in August of this year. If his counts turn out to be much higher than that of the Southeastern Labs from 1982 collections, we may want to consider increasing the harvest. Given the choice, I think we should keep the herd below carrying capacity rather than at or slightly above.

Enclosed are some deer harvest forms and a weight conversion chart you might find useful. If you have any questions or want to discuss the situation, please call.

Don On

enclosures

cc: Frank Bowers

DHO/dj

"Get Serious About Safety"

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
(REV. 1-80)
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6
5010-114

Table 1. Holla Bend NWR 1985 Deer Hunt Results

Type Hunt	No. Days	Bucks	Does	Total	Hunter Days	Hunter Hours	HD per Deer	HH per HD
1985-Bow E. Sex		32	45	77				
1984 Totals	76	45	55	100	5,645	33,870	56.5	6

Table 2. Holla Bend NWR 1985 Age and Sex Composition

Sex	1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	3 1/2	4 1/2	5 1/2+	Total
Bucks	17	5	3	4	2	1	32
Does	14	8	6	7	4	6	45
1985 Totals	31	13	9	11	6	7	77
1985 Percents	40.3	16.9	11.7	14.3	7.8	9.1	100.1
1984 Percents	56.1	14.0	14.0	8.8	3.5	3.5	99.1

Table 3. Holla Bend NWR 1985 Average Live Weights and Antler Points by Age Class

Age	Bucks		Does		No. of Points	
	1984	1985	1984	1985	1984	1985
1/2	72	66	58	58	-	-
1 1/2	123	131	89*	99	5.5	4.4
2 1/2	158	125	110	109	8.0	7.3
3 1/2	191*	163	102	106	13.0*	9.8
4 1/2	180	158	NS	111	10.5	8.5
5 1/2+	NS	185*	109	117	NS	8.0*

NS = No Sample

* = Single Sample

Holla Bend NWR
Archery Hunt Data

Year	Hunt Days	Hunter Visits	Hunter Activity Hour	Deer Checked
1969	8	270	1,350	2
1970	31	600	2,400	5
1971	45	840	4,200	21
1972	43	1,626	8,130	20
1973	48	2,214	8,856	19
1974	61	3,218	12,872	44
1975	61	4,093	16,372	52
1976	61	4,741	18,964	77
1977	61	3,699	14,796	45
1978	61	3,805	15,220	64
1979	61	4,298	17,160	65
1980	61	4,753	19,013	79
1981	76	6,332	31,660	59
1982	76	5,565	27,825	69
1983	76	5,554	33,324	81
1984	76	5,645	33,870	100
1985				77